

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An irrigation probe comprising:
a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends;

5 an electrode comprising an elongated electrode body having first and second ends, wherein the electrode defines an inner cavity, the electrode having at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass from the inner cavity to the outside of the electrode, the electrode being fixedly
10 attached to the distal end of the probe body at a point along the elongated body of the electrode between the first and second ends wherein the distal end of the probe body and the electrode form an angle α greater than 0° ; and
means for introducing fluid into the inner cavity.

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2. An irrigation probe according to claim 1, wherein the means for introducing fluid into the inner cavity comprises an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid
20 communication with the inner cavity.

3. An irrigation probe according to claim 2, wherein the infusion tube extends through the probe body.

25 4. An irrigation probe according to claim 2, wherein the probe body, the infusion tube and the electrode together comprise a single unitary generally hollow body.

30 5. An irrigation probe according to claim 1, further comprising a handle mounted at the proximal end of the probe body, the handle comprising a housing having a generally open interior.

6. An irrigation probe according to claim 1, wherein the generally rigid probe body comprises a malleable material.

7. An irrigation probe comprising:

5 a generally rigid probe body having proximal and distal ends;

an electrode comprising an elongated electrode body having first and second ends, wherein the electrode defines an inner cavity, the electrode having at least one irrigation
10 opening through which fluid can pass from the inner cavity to the outside of the electrode, the electrode being fixedly attached to the distal end of the probe body at a point along the elongated body of the electrode between the first and second ends wherein the distal end of the probe body and the
15 electrode form an angle α greater than 0° ;

a handle mounted to the proximal end of the probe body; and

an infusion tube having proximal and distal ends, wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid
20 communication with the inner cavity.

8. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the infusion tube extends through the probe body.

25 9. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the generally rigid probe body and the electrode together comprise:

a single generally hollow tubular body that forms the infusion tube; and

30 a non-conductive sheath covering a portion of the tubular body proximal to the electrode.

10. An irrigation probe according to claim 9, wherein the tubular body has an inner diameter ranging from about 0.40 inch to about 0.80 inch and an outer diameter ranging from about 0.50 inch to about 0.90 inch.

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11. An irrigation probe according to claim 9, wherein the tubular body has an outer diameter ranging from about 0.50 inch to about 0.70 inch.

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12. An irrigation probe according to claim 9, wherein the tubular body has an inner diameter ranging from about 0.40 inch to about 0.60 inch.

13. an irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein
15 the rigid probe body is made of a malleable material.

14. An irrigation probe according to claim 9, further comprising a flexible plastic tubing attached to the proximal end of the tubular body for introducing fluid into the inner
20 cavity of the electrode.

15. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the at least one irrigation opening is located on the surface of the electrode to be in contact with the tissue to be
25 ablated.

16. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the at least one irrigation opening comprises at least three holes arranged along the length of the elongated body of the
30 electrode.

17. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the electrode has a length ranging from about 0.50 inch to about 1.5 inches.

5 18. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the electrode has a length ranging from about 0.75 inch to about 1.25 inches.

10 19. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the angle α formed between the distal end of the probe body and the elongated electrode body is greater than about 10° .

15 20. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the angle α formed between the distal end of the probe body and the elongated electrode body is greater than about 20° .

20 21. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the angle α formed between the distal end of the probe body and the elongated electrode body ranges from about 70° to about 110° .

25 22. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the angle α formed between the distal end of the probe body and the elongated electrode body ranges from about 85° to about 95° .

23. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the point along the elongated body is approximately equidistant between the first and second ends.

24. An irrigation probe according to claim 7, wherein the generally rigid probe body comprises:

a tubing having proximal and distal ends and first and second lumens extending therethrough, wherein the

5 electrode is mounted at the distal end of the tubing; and

a stiffening wire having proximal and distal ends, the stiffening wire extending through the second lumen of the tubing;

10 wherein the infusion tube extends at least a part of the way through the first lumen of the tubing, wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid communication with the inner cavity of the electrode.

25. An irrigation probe according to claim 24, wherein
15 the stiffening wire is made of a malleable material.

26. An irrigation probe according to claim 24, wherein the at least one irrigation opening is located on the surface of the electrode to be in contact with the tissue to be
20 ablated.

27. An irrigation probe according to claim 26, wherein the at least one irrigation opening comprises at least three holes arranged along the length of the elongated body of the
25 electrode.